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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

SNOW SURVEYS and WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for ALASKA



U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Collaborating with
ALASKA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation
with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF
MAR. 1, 1974

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Snow Surveyors near Ship Creek,
Alaska snow course.*

SCS PHOTO A-272-11

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE
SNOW SURVEYS
AND
WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
FOR
ALASKA

Issued by

KENNETH E. GRANT
ADMINISTRATOR
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

|||||
Released by

WEYMETH E. LONG
STATE CONSERVATIONIST
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

|||||
Report prepared by

ARTHUR G. CROOK
SNOW SURVEY SUPERVISOR
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
204 EAST FIFTH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501



SNOWPACK PROFILE STUDY

SCS PHOTO A-317-1

ALASKA SUMMARY
as of
MARCH 1, 1974

Heavy snows during February have helped the outlook on some Alaska watersheds while some others remain well below average.

Snowpack conditions now range from a low of half of normal on the Koyukuk drainage to 23 percent above average on the Kenai Peninsula.

Forecasts of this spring's snowmelt runoff indicate that Fairbanks and Anchorage area streams will yield from 12 to 15 percent less than normal.

The area by area summary is as follows:

KOYUKUK DRAINAGE

The season's first snow surveys on the Koyukuk watershed have revealed that the March 1 snowpack is only 52 percent of average. At Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass the accumulation is near the March 1, 1970 record low.

UPPER YUKON DRAINAGES

Virtually all measurement sites are well below average. Area-wide, the snowpack is 27 percent below normal. At this time last year the pack was near average.

KUSKOKWIM DRAINAGE

The limited number of courses on the upper reaches of the watershed are 27 percent less than average but 20 percent higher than last year.

TANANA-CHENA DRAINAGES

Conditions have improved during the last month and the basin snow cover is now 74 percent of average. Last year at this time, the pack was near normal. The Chena and Salcha rivers are forecast to run at 85 and 84 percent of normal respectively during the snowmelt runoff period.

COPPER DRAINAGE

This area has shown a dramatic improvement. Last month many courses were near their record low levels but heavy snows during February have resulted in March 1 levels only 10 percent below average. Currently, this area is 14 percent heavier than last year's snowpack.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA DRAINAGES

Most snow courses in this vicinity accumulated more snow than normal during February. These watersheds now are only 14 percent below normal.

UPPER COOK INLET DRAINAGES

This is another area that received heavy February snows. The pack is now only 10 percent below normal, and is 15 percent above last March 1. Forecasting procedures have been developed for Ship Creek and the South Fork of Campbell Creek. These streams are forecast to yield 88 percent of their normal April through July runoff.

KENAI PENINSULA DRAINAGES

Snow courses in this area now are 23 percent above the short-term average. The heavy February snows brought this figure up considerably over last month.

SOUTHEASTERN DRAINAGES

The season's first surveys near Juneau show that the March 1 snowpack is 14 percent greater than normal and slightly higher than last year. Further south, near Ketchikan, the pack has shown an accelerated accumulation during February and is now a third heavier than last year.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

BASIN, STREAM and/or FORECAST POINT	THIS YEAR		FORECAST PERIOD	PAST RECORD		
	Thousand Acre Feet	Percent of Average		THOUSAND ACRE FEET		
				Last Year	Average +	
CHENA RIVER at Fairbanks	490	85%	April-July	541	574	
SALCHA RIVER nr. Salchaket	670	84%	April-July	686	795	
SHIP CREEK nr. Anchorage 1/	51	88%	April-July	40.5	57.7	
SO. FK. CAMPBELL CREEK nr. Anchorage	11.6	88%	April-July	9.7	13.1	

1/ Measured flow adjusted for diversion.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD				
	Name	Number	Elevation	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Years of Previous Record
						Last Year	Average +	
AS OF FEB. 15, 1974								
<u>TANANA-CHENA:</u>								
Big Windy	22	3850		Abandoned		2.8E	2.7	4
Caribou Mine	28	1115	2/16	21A	3.6E	5.8E	5.1	5
Chena Hot Springs	21	1250		Abandoned		4.2E	5.0	5
Cleary Summit	18	2230	2/16	23A	5.0E	6.5E	6.5	5
Little Chena	19	2200	2/16	23A	4.3E	6.5E	5.6	5
Mt. Ryan	20	2950	2/16	23A	5.2E	7.1E	6.9	5
Munson Ridge	23	3100	2/16	33A	6.3E	10.0E	10.8	5
Upper Chena	75	3000	2/16	26A	4.0E	7.5E	8.4	5
Wolf Creek	76	3850	2/16	12A	2.5E	4.0E	4.6	5
AS OF MAR. 1, 1974								
<u>NORTHSLOPE:</u>								
Elusive Lake	105	1800		No Survey		NS	--	2
<u>KOYUKUK DRAINAGE:</u>								
Anaktuvuk Pass	1	2100	2/25	12	1.8	3.1	3.1	6
Bettles Field	2	640	2/25	24	4.1	9.7	7.4	7
Cold Foot	107	1000	2/28	25	4.0	10.3	9.3	3
Dietrich Camp	106	1550	2/28	16	2.3	4.7	4.6	3
Glacier Creek	113	2000	2/28	24A	3.6E	8.1E	--	2
Jim River	115	1900		No Survey		5.2E	--	2
Kupuk Creek	112	2300	3/01	24A	3.6E	6.8E	--	2
Lake Todatonten	77	985	2/24	21A	3.4E	4.8E	5.4	6
Prospect Creek	108	980	2/28	22	3.4	7.3	--	2
Snowden Mountain	111	1900		No Survey		4.3E	--	2
Table Mountain	110	2200	3/01	19A	2.7E	4.9E	--	2
West Buttons	114	1600	2/27	20A	2.5E	7.4E	--	2
<u>YUKON DRAINAGE:</u>								
Arctic Village	6	2300	2/26	18	2.3	3.0	3.1	10
Black River	11	650	2/26	17	2.0	4.3	3.7	9
Boundary	15	3300	2/27	19A	2.9E	4.2E	4.5	7
Bull Lake	13	810		Abandoned		4.1E	4.6	7
A - Aerial Marker Reading			E - Estimated			NS - No Survey		

+ 1958-1972 period.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	THIS YEAR		PAST RECORD	
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average +		
YUKON DRAINAGE:									
Chandalar Lake	3	2040	2/25	18	2.6	4.7	3.3	8	
Chicken Airstrip	16	1650	2/27	13	1.9	2.5	2.8	9	
Circle City	12	600	2/26	20	2.5	3.3	3.8	9	
Coleen River	8	1100	2/26	12A	1.7E	3.6E	2.8	9	
Dempsey Creek	83	950	2/27	19A	2.9E	3.9E	4.2	5	
Eagle Village	14	900	2/27	22	3.2	3.0	3.9	9	
5 Mile	109	400	2/28	19	2.9	3.5	4.4	3	
Fort Yukon	10	425	2/26	16	2.1	3.3	3.1	9	
Koness Lake	7	1790	2/26	13	2.0	3.4	3.0	7	
Log Cabin	69	2880	2/28	41	10.4	12.2	11.4	13	
Mt. Fairplay	94	3100	2/27	15A	2.1E	2.4E	3.8	4	
Nation River	95	3050	2/27	26A	4.4E	5.7E	5.4	3	
Squaw Lake	4	2150	2/25	16A	2.4E	4.6	3.4	7	
Thirty Mile	116	1300	No Survey		NS	5.0E	--	2	
Venetie	5	610	2/25	16	2.3	3.2	2.6	9	
Vundik Lake	9	950	2/26	15A	2.2	4.3	2.7	6	
KUSKOKWIM DRAINAGE:									
Farewell Lake	43	1090	2/24	17	2.5	2.2	3.2	7	
Lake Minchumina	42	730	2/24	17	2.8	2.2	4.1	7	
TANANA-CHENA:									
Big Delta	29	975	2/28	16	2.5	2.1	3.0	13	
Bonanza Creek	82	1150	2/28	19	2.8	3.1	4.7	6	
Caribou Creek	103	1440	3/01	21	3.1	5.0	5.2	4	
Caribou Mine	28	1115	3/01	23	4.1	5.4	5.3	8	
Chena Hot Springs	21	1250	Abandoned			3.8	4.2	10	
Cleary Summit	18	2230	2/26	26	5.6	7.0	5.8	13	
Colorado Creek	27	750	2/26	20	3.0	3.5	4.6	8	
Donnelly Dome	80	2200	2/27	20	3.9	3.4	5.3	7	
Fielding Lake	33	3000	2/27	36	7.6	9.0	8.4	11	
Fort Greely	78	1420	2/26	18	2.9	1.5	3.3	7	
French Creek	24	2010	2/26	22	4.7	5.0	6.3	11	
Granite Creek	81	1235	2/28	16	2.7	1.9	3.2	6	
Haystack Mtn.	102	1950	3/01	26	4.8	7.1	--	2	
Little Chena	19	2200	3/01	26	4.9	6.5	5.5	9	
Little Salcha	25	1500	2/26	21	3.8	3.5	5.6	11	
Meadows Road	79	1570	2/27	18	2.8	1.7	2.8	7	
Mentasta Pass	31	2430	2/27	27	4.7	7.4	5.0	11	
Monument Creek		1900	3/01	21	3.6	4.7	--	1	
Mt. Ryan	20	2950	3/01	27	5.2	7.2	6.5	9	
Munson Ridge	23	3100	3/01	33	6.7	12.3	10.8	10	
Poker Creek	104	1025	3/01	19	3.0	4.4	4.5	3	
Teuchet Creek		1640	3/01	18	2.9	3.5	--	1	
Tok Junction	30	1650	2/28	16	2.6	2.0	3.2	13	
Upper Chena	75	3000	3/01	21	4.0	7.6	8.4	6	
Wien Lake	74	1020	2/24	17	2.4	2.7	4.0	6	
Wolf Creek	76	3850	3/01	13A	2.7E	3.1E	3.6	5	
Yak Pasture	17	540	2/26	18	2.9	3.8	4.3	12	
COPPER RIVER:									
Haggard Creek	34	2540	2/27	29	5.4	4.0	4.5	9	
Little Nelchina	40	4160	3/01	21A	3.6E	4.4E	4.4	6	
Mankomen Lake	32	3050	3/01	33	6.0	4.6	5.8	7	
St. Anne's Lake	54	1985	3/01	16	2.6	3.6	4.4	9	
Sanford River	37	2280	2/28	29A	5.4E	3.6E	4.3	7	
Tsaina River	119	1550	2/27	41	8.2	--	--	1	
Worthington Glacier	55	2400	2/27	46	10.9	--	14.2	7	

A - Aerial Marker Reading

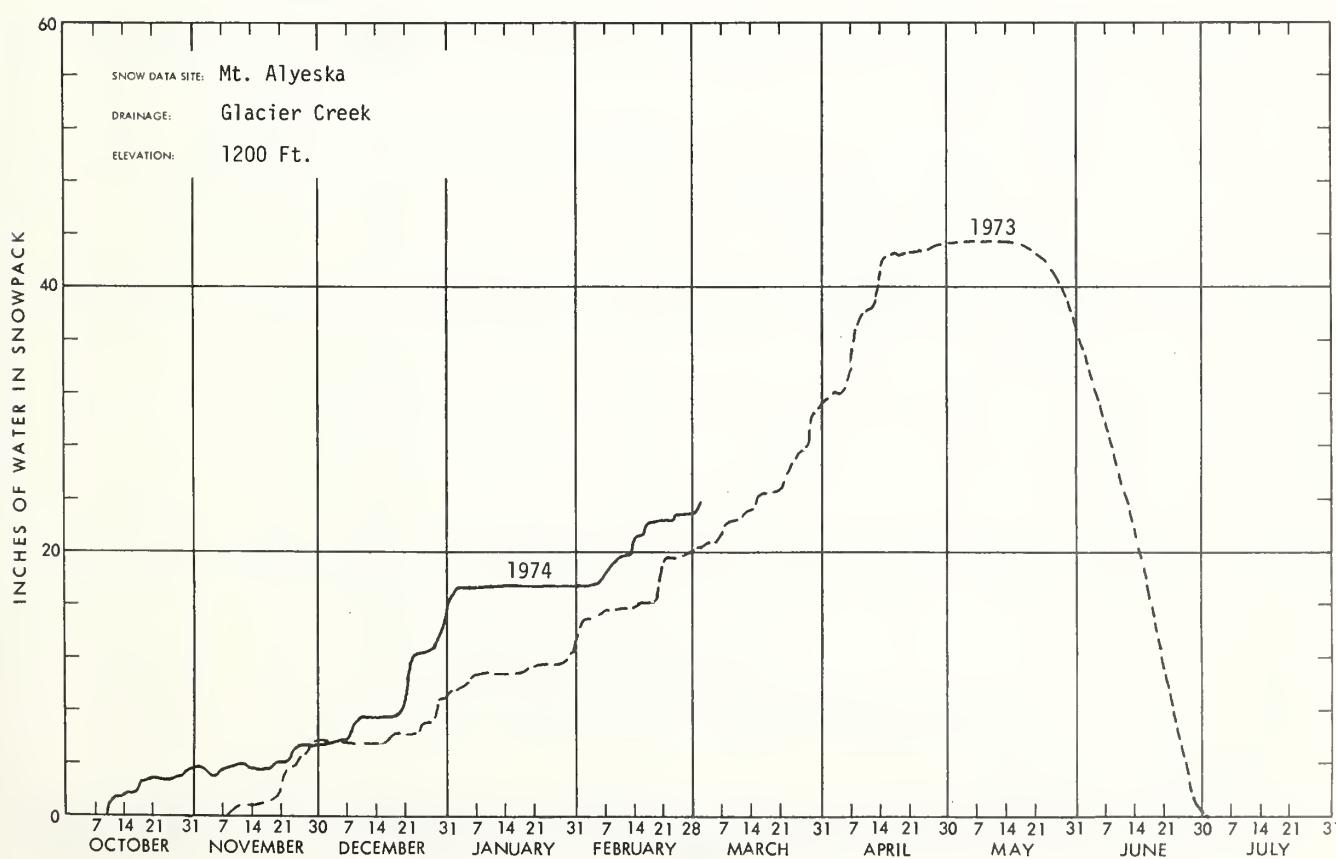
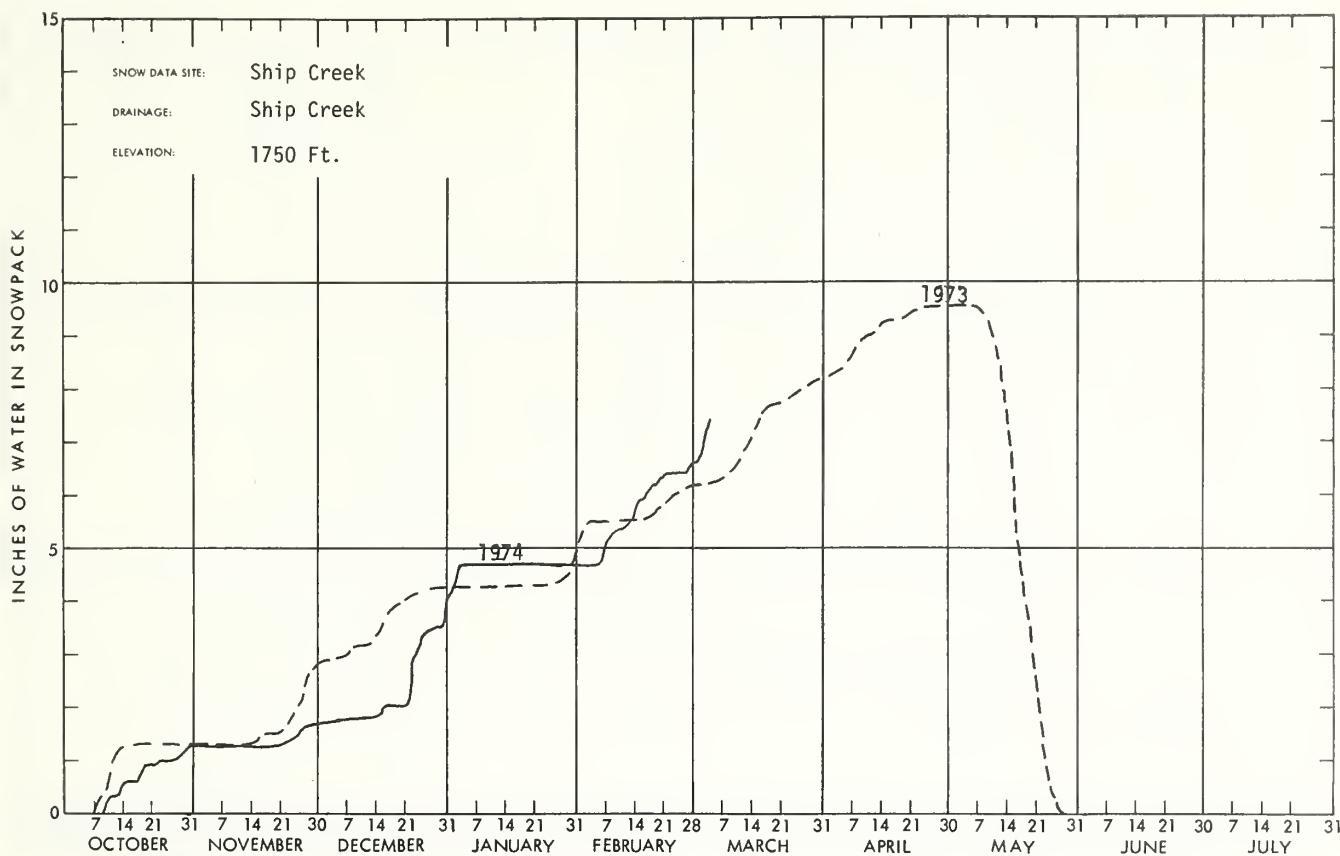
E - Estimated

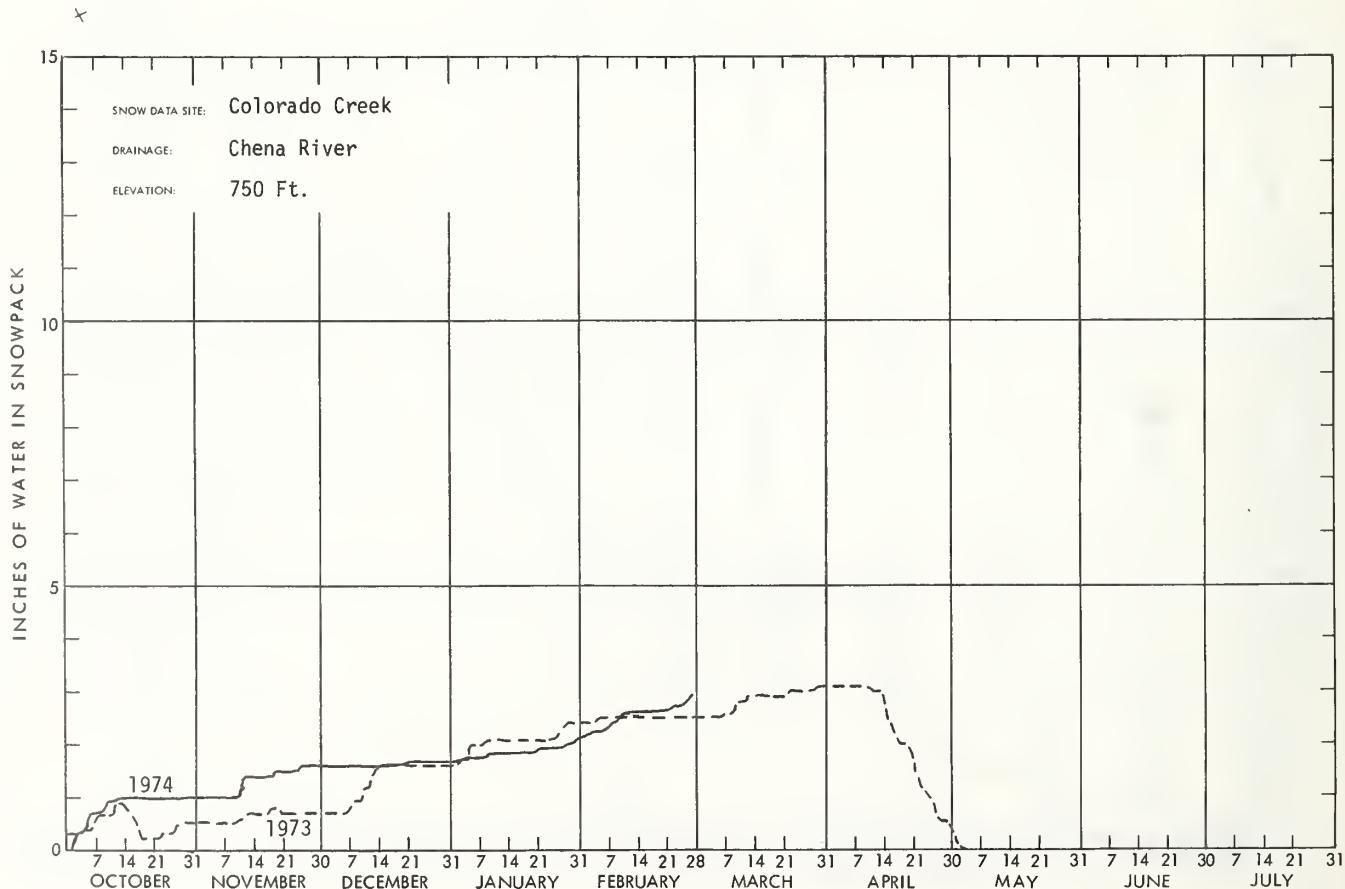
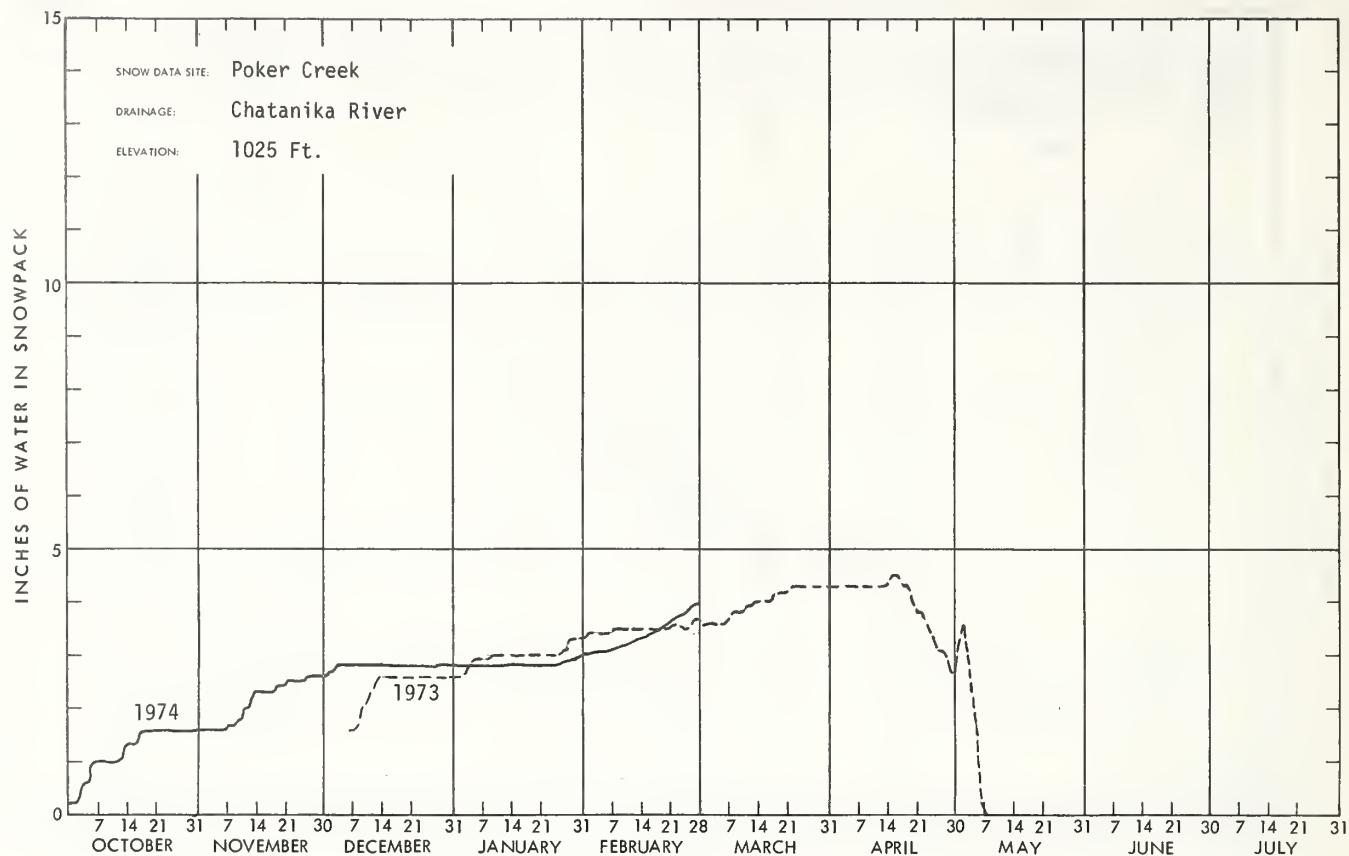
NS - No Survey

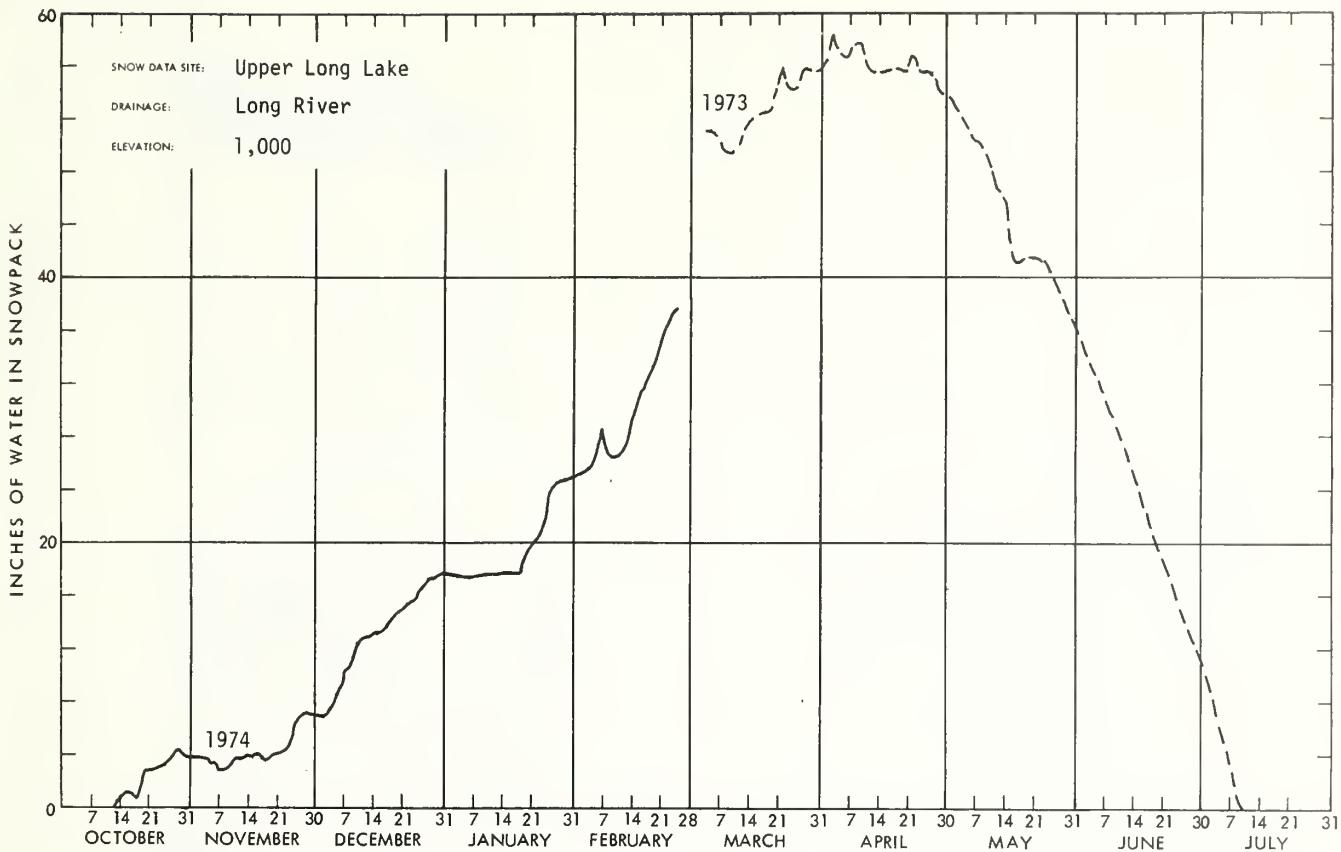
+ 1958-1972 period.

SNOW

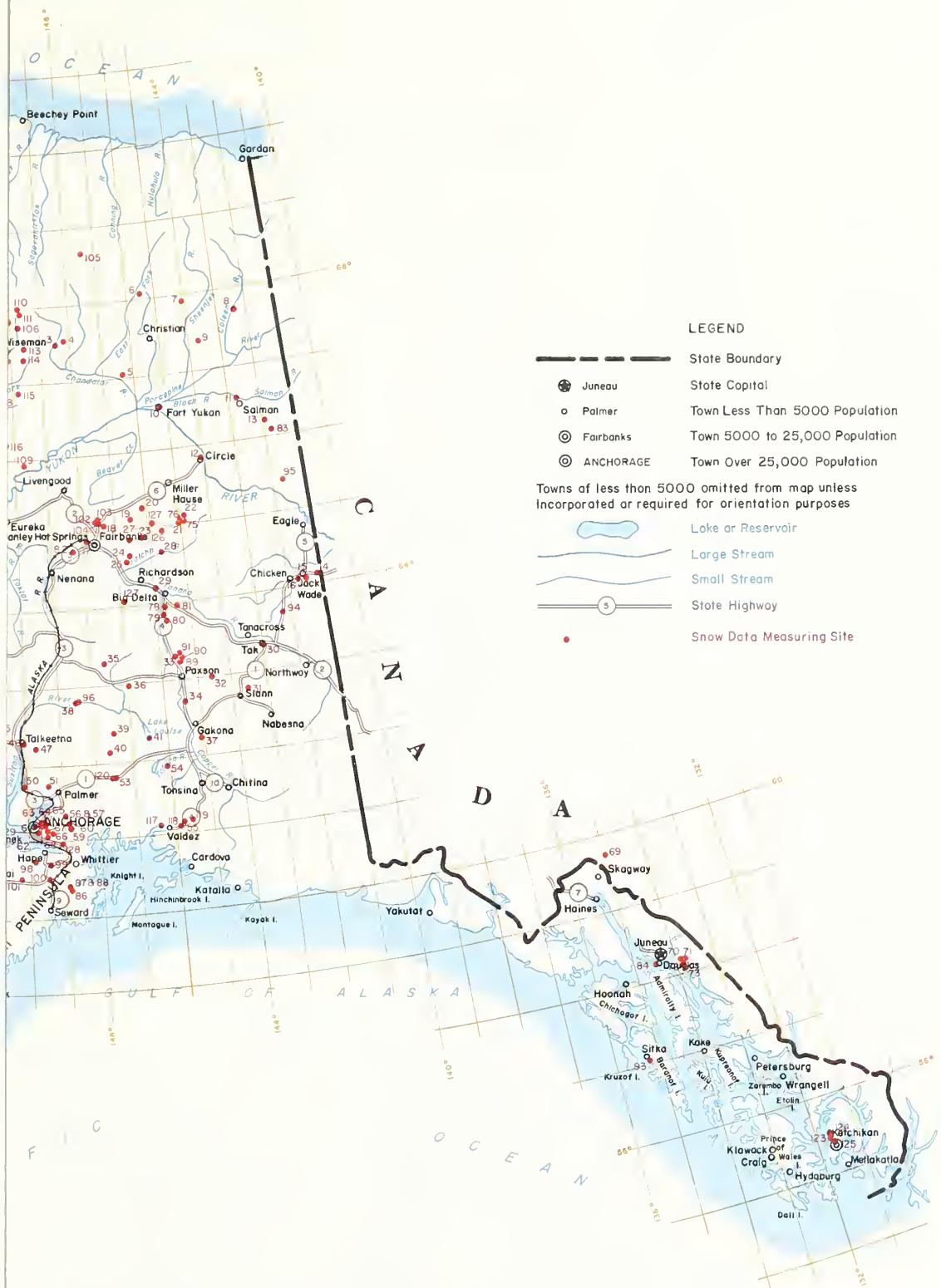
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD		
NAME	Number	Elevation	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average +	Years of Previous Record
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA:								
Alexander Lake	49	200	2/28	34	8.2	7.7	9.5	10
Bald Mtn. Lake	47	2150	2/28	27A	6.5E	4.8E	5.8	9
Chelatna Lake	44	1650	2/28	34A	7.5E	7.8E	8.5	10
Clearwater Lake	36	3100	2/28	26	4.8	5.6	4.7	8
Fog Lakes #2	96	2250	2/28	20	3.6	6.9	6.0	4
Independence Mine	51	3300	2/28	52	12.6	--	14.5	7
Lake Louise	41	2400	3/01	25	3.8	3.7	3.6	9
Monahan Flat	35	2710	2/28	22A	3.7E	6.9	6.3	9
Oshetna Lake	39	2950	3/01	21	3.5	4.1	3.2	10
Peters Hills	45	2010	2/28	39A	9.4E	12.9E	12.4	6
Sheep Mtn. #2	120	2900	2/27	17	2.6	--	3.8	8
Skwentna	48	158	2/28	33	7.0	6.4	8.4	7
Talkeetna	46	350	2/28	28	5.0	5.8	6.9	7
Willow Airstrip	50	150	3/01	34	7.0	5.3	5.8	10
UPPER COOK INLET:								
Arctic Ski Bowl	65	3000	2/27	31	8.7	10.1	10.6	10
Arctic Valley #1	61	500	2/27	13	2.4	3.8	2.8	10
Arctic Valley #2	62	1000	2/27	16	2.9	4.3	2.9	10
Arctic Valley #3	63	2030	2/27	23	5.0	5.1	5.0	10
Arctic Valley #4	64	2330	2/27	21	4.4	5.3	5.6	10
Bird Creek	66	2350	3/04	54	13.8	9.2	12.8	7
Goat	59	3200	3/01	40	9.3	3.7	9.1	6
Indian Pass	68	2350	3/04	59	15.4	15.7	16.5	7
McArthur	52	120	2/28	48A	11.5E	11.5E	17.4	9
Moraine	56	2100	3/01	29	5.1	4.8	5.8	6
Mt. Alyeska	128	1200	3/03	SP	23.8	17.7	--	1
Ptarmigan	57	3000	3/01	29	6.3	4.9	6.8	6
Ship Creek	67	1750	3/04	42	8.1	6.9	8.8	7
South Campbell Creek	129	1200	3/04	26	4.7	6.6	--	1
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND:								
Lowe River	118	550	2/27	38	8.7	--	--	1
Valdez	117	50	2/27	43	11.1	--	--	1
KENAI PENINSULA:								
Bertha Creek	98	850	2/27	53	13.3	10.4	10.1	4
Bridge Creek, Upper	121	1300	2/28	37	8.4	6.5	--	2
Bridge Creek, Lower	122	1100	2/28	40	9.6	7.8	--	2
Jean Lake	101	620	2/27	17	3.3	3.7	2.7	4
Kenai Summit	99	1390	2/27	43	10.6	6.7	9.1	4
Moose Pass	100	700	2/27	23	5.1	5.4	4.2	4
SOUTHEAST ALASKA:								
Crater Lake	73	1750	2/25	163	61.0	59.5	54.6	9
Douglas Ski Bowl	84	1640	2/27	102	35.9	38.9	32.3	6
Harriet Top	123	2000	3/01	172	57.0	46.2	--	1
Hunt Saddle	124	1500	3/01	150	50.5	39.0	--	1
Lake Shore	125	660	3/01	96	41.3	25.0	--	1
Long Lake	71	1075	2/25	142	45.1	45.4	38.8	9
Speel River	72	275	2/25	95	32.0	35.8	29.5	9
Upper Long Lake	70	1000	2/25	127	42.0	42.0	34.1	9
A - Aerial Marker Reading			E - Estimated			SP - Snow Pillow		
+ 1958-1972 period.								







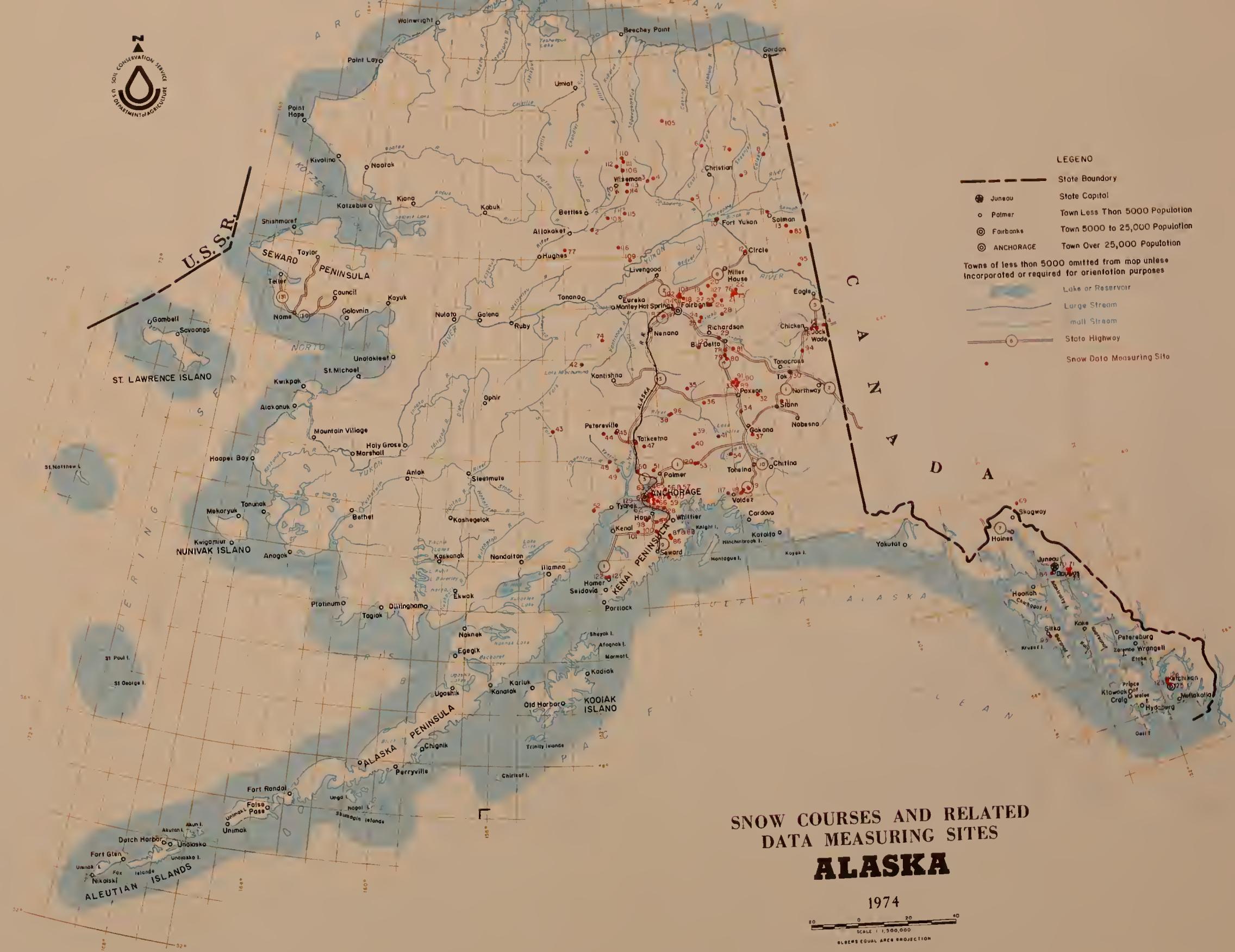




SNOW COURSES AND RELATED DATA MEASURING SITES ALASKA

1974

20 0 20 40
SCALE 1:1,500,000
ALBERS EQUAL AREA PROJECTION



INDEX OF ALASKA SNOW COURSES

LEGEND

* Letters refer to Agency that secures the snow
* survey, as follows:

- a. Soil Conservation Service
 - b. Forest Service
 - c. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - d. U.S. Army Cold Regions Research & Eng. Lab
 - e. Alaska Power Administration
 - f. Bureau of Land Management
 - g. U.S. Geological Survey

* Letters following the snow course no. refer to:

- * A. Snow course and aerial stadia marker
 - * a. Aerial stadia marker only
 - M. Soil Moisture Station
 - P. Precipitation Storage Gage
 - S. Snow Pillar

MAP NO.	COURSE NAME	COURSE NO. *
1	Anaktuvuk Pass	51TT1A
2	Bettles Field	51RR1A
3	Chandalar Lake	48551A
4	Squaw Lake	48552a
5	Venetie	46551A
6	Arctic Village	45TT1A
7	Koness Lake	44551A
8	Coleen River	42551A
9	Vundik Lake	43551a
10	Fort Yukon	45RR1AM
11	Black River	42RR1A
12	Circle City	44QQ3A
13	Bull Lake	41RR1A
14	Eagle Village	41PP1A
15	Boundary	41PP3A
16	Chicken Airstrip	41PP2A
17	Yak Pasture	47PP1
18	Cleary Summit	47QQ1A
19	Little Chena	46QQ2AP
20	Mt. Ryan	46QQ1AP
21	Chena Hot Springs	45Q1
22	Big Windy	44QQ2AP
23	Munson Ridge	46PP1AP
24	French Creek	46PP2MA
25	Little Salcha	46PP3
27	Colorado Creek	46PP45
28	Caribou Mine	45PP2A
29	Big Delta	45PP1
30	Tok Junction	43001
31	Mentasta Pass	43NN1
32	Mankomen Lake	44NN1
33	Fielding Lake	45001A
34	Haggard Creek	45NN1A
35	Monahan Flat	47001A
36	Clearwater Lake	46NN1A
37	Sanford River	45NN2A
38	Fog Lakes	48NN1A
39	Oshetna Lake	47NN1A
40	Little Nelchina	47NN2a
41	Lake Louise	46NN2A
42	Lake Minchumina	52001A
43	Farewell Lake	53NN1A
44	Chelatna Lake	51NN1a
45	Peters Hills	50NN1a
46	Talkeetna	50NN2
47	Bald Mt. Lake	49NN1A
48	5kwentna	51MM1A
49	Alexander Lake	50MM1A
50	Willow Airstrip	50MM2
51	Independence Mine	49MM10
52	McArthur	52LL1A
53	Sheep Mountain	47MM1
54	St. Anne's Lake	46MM1A
55	Worthington Glacier	45MM2
56	Moraine	48MM1
57	Ptarmigan	48MM2
59	Goat	48MM4A
60	Grizzly	49MM1
61	Arctic Valley #1	49MM2
62	Arctic Valley #2	49MM3
63	Arctic Valley #3	49MM4
64	Arctic Valley #4	49MM5
65	Arctic Ski Bowl	49MM6A
66	Bird Creek	49MM7MP5
67	Ship Creek	49MM8A
68	Indian Pass	34KK1
69	Log Cabin (8.C.)	33JJ2aS
70	Upper Long Lake	33JJ1A
71	Long Lake	33JJ3A
72	Speel River	33JJ4a
73	Crater Lake	51PP1A
74	Wien Lake	44QQ1AP
75	Upper Chena	44QQ4a
76	Wolf Creek	52RR1a
77	Lake Todatonten	45005
78	Ft. Greely	

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATING IN ALASKA SNOW SURVEYS

FEDERAL

Atomic Energy Commission

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Institute of Northern Forestry

North Tongass National Forest

South Tongass National Forest

Chugach National Forest

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA National Weather Service

Department of Defense

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laborat

Department of Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Geological Survey

Alaska Power Administration

STATE

State of Alaska

Alaska Soil Conservation District

Fairbanks Soil Conservation Sub-district

Homer Soil Conservation Sub-district

Kenai-Kasilof Soil Conservation Sub-district

Kenny Lake Soil Conservation Sub-district

Kodiak Soil Conservation Sub-district

Montana Soil Conservation Sub-district

Ninilchik Soil Conservation Sub-district

Palmer Soil Conservation Sub-district

Salcha-Big Delta Soil Conservation Sub-district

Wasilla Soil Conservation Sub-district

University of Alaska

BOROUGH

Greater Anchorage Area Borough

City and Borough of Sitka

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Anchorage

PRIVATE

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